

1           What is claimed is:

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3       1. A latching hinge masking device comprising:

4           a first cavity of sufficient size to cover substantially one half of a mounted half hinge barrel,  
5 having closure walls at each of a first and second end, each of said walls capable of substantially  
6 covering an end of said hinge barrel, and a first cover panel extending from a first lengthwise edge  
7 of said first cavity and of sufficient size to cover an inboard side of said half hinge; and

8           a second cavity of sufficient size to cover substantially one half of said half hinge barrel,  
9 having a second cover panel extending from a first lengthwise edge of said second cavity and of  
10 sufficient size to cover an outboard side of said half hinge; and

11           one or more extending lips having a length and attached with one or more of said closure  
12 walls and each extending substantially toward the opposite closure wall and capable of securing over  
13 said second cover panel, said extending lips in conjunction with said second cover panel forming a  
14 latching mechanism; and

15           a living hinge connected with a second lengthwise edge of said first cavity and a second  
16 lengthwise edge of said second cavity whereby said cavities may be flexed toward each other and  
17 around said half hinge barrel and said extending lips secure around and over said second cover panel  
18 thereby allowing said hinge masking device to substantially cover and latch around said half hinge.

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20       2. The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 1 whereby:

21           one or more of said closure walls having sufficient flexibility to flex away from said second  
22 cover panel at least as far as said length of said extending lips as said extending lips secure around  
23 and over said second cover panel and further having a sufficient material memory to return to an  
24 original position when said extending lips secure over said second cover panel.

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26       3. The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 1 further comprising:

27           one or more relief portions on said second cover panel of sufficient width and depth to cover  
28 one or more screwheads extending from said half hinge outboard side and yet further allow said  
29 second cover panel to sit substantially flush with said outboard side.

1       4.     The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2              one or more notches on said second cover panel located substantially where said extending  
3              lips secure around and over said second cover panel whereby said extending lips engage said notches  
4              and said notches allow for easy and convenient disengagement of said lips from said notches.

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6       5.     The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 2 further comprising:  
7              one or more relief portions on said second cover panel of sufficient width and depth to cover  
8              one or more screwheads extending from said half hinge outboard side and yet further allow said  
9              second cover panel to sit substantially flush with said outboard side.

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11      6.     The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 2 further comprising:  
12              one or more notches on said second cover panel located substantially where said extending  
13              lips secure around and over said second cover panel whereby said extending lips engage said notches  
14              and said notches allow for easy and convenient disengagement of said lips from said notches.

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16      7.     The latching hinge masking device as described in claim 3 further comprising:  
17              one or more notches on said second cover panel located substantially where said extending  
18              lips secure around and over said second cover panel whereby said extending lips engage said notches  
19              and said notches allow for easy and convenient disengagement of said lips from said notches.

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21      8.     A latching hinge masking device comprising:  
22              a first cavity of sufficient size to cover substantially one half of a mounted half hinge barrel,  
23              having flexible closure walls at each of a first and second end, each of said walls capable of  
24              substantially covering an end of said hinge barrel, and a first cover panel extending from a first  
25              lengthwise edge of said first cavity and of sufficient size to cover an inboard side of said half hinge;  
26              and

27              a second cavity of sufficient size to cover substantially one half of said half hinge barrel,  
28              having a second cover panel extending from a first lengthwise edge of said second cavity and of  
29              sufficient size to cover an outboard side of said half hinge, said second cover panel having one or

1 more relief portions of sufficient width and depth to cover screwheads extending from said outboard  
2 side; and

3 an extending lip on each of said closure walls, each having a length, each extending  
4 substantially toward the opposite closure wall and capable of securing over said second cover panel  
5 upon flexing of said closure walls, said extending lips in conjunction with said second cover panel  
6 forming a latching mechanism; and

7 a living hinge connected with a second lengthwise edge of said first cavity and a second  
8 lengthwise edge of said second cavity whereby said cavities may be flexed toward each other and  
9 around said half hinge barrel and said extending lips flexibly secured around and over said second  
10 cover panel thereby allowing said hinge masking device to substantially cover and latch around said  
11 half hinge.

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13 9. A method of masking a mounted half hinge, the steps comprising:

14 forming a latching hinge masking device having extending lips extending from and mounted  
15 onto each of two flexible closure walls, said closure walls mounted at two ends of a first cavity  
16 having a first cover panel of substantially equivalent size to an inboard side of a mounted half hinge;  
17 and

18 forming a second cavity attached with said first cavity with a living hinge and further having  
19 a second cover panel of substantially equivalent size to an outboard side of said mounted half hinge;  
20 and

21 placing said first cavity around a barrel of said half hinge; and

22 placing said first cover panel over said inboard side; and

23 bending said second cavity on said living hinge toward said first cavity and around said  
24 barrel; and

25 placing said second cover panel over said outboard side; and

26 pushing said second cover panel over and into said extending lips; and

27 flexing said closure walls away from said second cover panel as said second cover panel  
28 pushes over said extending lips whereby said extending lips may clear said second cover panel; and  
29 releasing said closure walls whereby said latching hinge masking device is latched onto said

1        mounted half hinge; and  
2                finishing around said mounted half hinge; and  
3                flexing said closure walls away from said second cover panel as said second cover panel is  
4        pulled over said extending lips and away from said outboard side; and  
5                removing said latching hinge masking device from said half hinge.

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7        10.      The method of masking a mounted half hinge as set forth in claim 9 further comprising:  
8                forming one or more relief portions in said second cover panel; and  
9                placing said relief portions over one or more extending screw heads on said outboard side  
10      of said of said half hinge, whereby said second cover panel sits flush with said outboard side.

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